

Application Serial No.: 10/021,963

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Amendment dated: February 15, 2006

Response to Office Action dated November 17, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested. Claims 9, 10, 12, 14-18, and 20-28 are now in the case. Claim 9 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicant's representative wishes to thank Examiner Harris for the courtesy extended in the telephonic interview of February 14, 2006. The claims have been amended as discussed in the interview.

Claims 9, 10, 12, 14-18, and 20-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Office believes that the specification does not provide sufficient guidance as to the implementation of "an expression vector containing a DNA segment which encodes a protein comprising a *sequence* of amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2 from residue 6 through residue 56," which language has been construed by the Office as reading on a protein comprising just one or two amino acid residues.

Claim 9 has been amended to remove the term "a sequence of." The remaining claims include this limitation by virtue of their dependence on amended claim 9. This amendment has been made to more clearly recite the subject matter that applicant regards as his invention. As discussed in applicant's Amendment of August 30, 2005, the encoded protein includes residues 6 through 56 of SEQ ID NO:2. In view of this amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Claims 9, 10, 12, 14-18, and 20-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

This rejection is believed to be obviated by the above amendments. Claim 9 has been amended to more clearly recite that the protein includes residues 6 through 56 of SEQ ID NO:2. As disclosed in applicant's specification at page 10, these residues define the boundaries of a Kunitz domain. As disclosed at page 2 of the specification and in applicant's Amendment of August 30, 2005, Kunitz domains are active as elements within larger proteins but maintain their activity when isolated. Thus, Kunitz domains are known in the art to be highly tolerant of amino acid sequence variations both around and within the domain itself. Applicant has disclosed (e.g., at page 16) that the recited Kunitz domain can be extended by the addition of short polypeptides, typically 10-15 residues in length. Such

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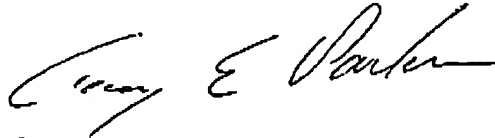
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polypeptides include, for example, affinity tags, a variety of which are known in the art and are available from commercial suppliers (specification at page 5). In view of this disclosure and the known nature of Kunitz domains, Applicant was in possession of an expression vector comprising a DNA segment encoding a protein of from 51 to 81 amino acid residues in length, said protein comprising amino acid residues 6 through 56 of SEQ ID NO:2. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Applicant believes that each rejection has been addressed and overcome. Reconsideration of the application and its allowance are requested. If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 442-6673.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosures:

Amendment Fee Transmittal (in duplicate)

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